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Volume 13, Number 35

Serving New Jersey's African-American Communities since 1983

JUNE 11 - JUNE 17, 1997

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Primary '97

Green's line wins
Queen City



Al McWilliams



Harold Mitchell



Gerald Green

By Darlie Lamont Jenkins

PLAINFIELD—It was cause for celebration for the Democratic Party line here as Assemblyman Gerald Green, City Councilman Al McWilliams, and Former Mayor Harold Mitchell each won their races for Assemblyman, Mayor, and 4th Ward Councilman respectively.

Green, along with Bob Smith of Princeton, beat back an attempt for their seats by former Bound Brook Borough Council member Ben Auletta, in a match that was a repeat of a contest in 1995. Auletta, an accountant currently serving on Bound Brook's Board of Education, lost in his second attempt to unseat Green and Smith, the final tally being Smith, 45%, Green, 45%, and Auletta, 7%.

By a vote count of 2,457 to 1,784 McWilliams unseated incumbent Mayor Mark Furry making Furry the third mayor in a row to be handed a defeat after one term. It was a bitter race that saw Furry in trouble early on due to feuding with Green, who is also the city Democratic Chairman.

McWilliams ran on the organization line with Green and the man Furry defeated four years ago, Harold Mitchell, who by less than 50 votes, won the 4th Ward council seat over Agurs Cathcart who ran with Furry. Green and his line were attacked by supporters of Furry who piped the city with anti-Green flyers and literature, and held a meeting not recognized by Democratic party heads in which some voted to impeach him as the Chairman. Because Plainfield is a strong Democratic stronghold, the winner of the Mayoral primary is an almost certain win in November against the Republican opponent. This year, that will be William Heffield, who easily won the nomination over Theodore Prehodka and William Michelson.

McWilliams said that he is going to work for more businesses in the city, looking in particular at the former Macy's and Tepper stores for economic development, a regular street maintenance plan that would make the streets clean and safe, and most importantly a better relationship with the people of Plainfield. "It's about everybody getting on the same page," he said. "We can disagree with out being disagreeable."

Widow of Malcolm X clings to life

YONKERS, N.Y. (AP)—Malcolm X's widow fought for her life last week after being burned over most of her body in a fire allegedly set by her grandson, described by a family lawyer as "a sad little boy" with a troubled past.

Dr. Betty Shabazz, 63, was listed in critical condition with third-degree burns over 80 percent of her body.

"The injuries are catastrophic...She is in a life-

threatening situation and will be for a long period of time," said Dr. Bruce Greenstein at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. Last Wednesday, she underwent four hours of surgery where doctors removed 20 percent of her remaining skin, replacing it with Integra, a newly developed artificial skin.

Her 12-year-old grandson, named Malcolm for his famous grandfather, was



Betty Shabazz

arrested a few hours after the fire erupted in his grandmother's apartment in Yonkers, just north of New York City. He was found walking in nearby Mount Vernon, his clothes smoldering of gasoline.

Malcolm appeared briefly in court Monday and was held in a juvenile detention center, charged with juvenile delinquency.

Family lawyer Percy Sutton said Malcolm "is a sad

little boy. He's a child, just a child who's been through a lot of trauma in his life."

On Feb. 21, 1965, Dr. Shabazz and Malcolm's mother Qubilah, then 4, witnessed the assassination of her husband and father at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem. After her husband's death, Mrs. Shabazz went on to raise six daughters, earn a bachelor's degree in public health administration from Jersey

City State College, and to become a university administrator and spokeswoman for civil rights. Qubilah attended Princeton University as one time.

Dr. Shabazz had long believed that Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan played a role in her husband's assassination. The two reconciled in 1995, the 30th anniversary of her husband's death. **see WIDOW CLINGS TO LIFE/PAGE 10**

Newark youth return lost \$500

By Kennard D. McGill

NEWARK—Considered "chumps" by few, but courageous by many, three young boys received well deserved awards in exchange for their honesty bikes.

On Wednesday, June 4, a reception was held for Dushane Rogers, Omar Brice, and Tyrone Williams, the boys who returned a wallet containing \$500 in it, only to receive a dollar reward for the good deed.

But their good deed didn't go unnoticed. A story in a local paper appeared later on the boys' heroics and the letters and offers to buy the bikes bikeshop they really wanted started pouring in.

Rogers and Williams found the wallet full of money near a garbage can in the court yard they play in at Newark's Reservoir projects on South Orange Avenue.

After pondering what to do with the money, and with a little encouragement by



Assemblyman Bill Payne congratulates Dushane Rogers, Omar Brice, and Tyrone Williams

Brice they decided to take the money back to its rightful owner.

"We knew it would have been wrong to keep it," said Rogers, 10. "We did the right thing," he shyly added.

"I was just thinking, we should give it back," said

Brice, 10, the smallest of the three. Williams, 10, said he doesn't regret giving the money back, felt that the owner "needed it for something, probably for food."

The reception was attended by the parents and

Trish Morris Yamba.

The Yamba's were the first to reward Rogers and Williams with bikes on an earlier date.

"We were happy to do our part. We were just one of many who called to offer gifts and bikes of all kinds of things, and it has not ended," said Mrs. Yamba.

Councilman Branch, said the boys were his role models and he came to honor the boys for a deed often unheard of.

"I see some kids find money and fight over it when it don't even belong to them," said Councilman Branch as spoke to the audience and the boys. "Remember about being honest and that will take you a long way," he added.

Along with bikes, the three boys received trust funds set up in their names, letters from people who wanted to congratulate them, and a promise to go to summer camp, as well as future trips to the White House to meet President Clinton.

Whitman offends Black Ministers Council

TRENTON (AP)—The New Jersey Black Ministers Council said Friday it is offended by Gov. Christie Whitman's position that additional funds going to urban schools must be monitored by auditors.

Council director Reginald Jackson said Whitman's monitoring program amounts to a financial takeover of the 28 poor school districts that are in line to receive an increase of \$250 million for the

forthcoming school year. Three of them are already under state operation.

The state Supreme Court has ruled the school funding system unconstitutional and ordered immediate increases in money for poor schools in the 1997-1998 school year beginning July 1.

Whitman on Monday said a team of state auditors will be deployed in each district to oversee spending, and that the money will be doled out

monthly to the districts.

"We are extremely troubled by the tenor and substance of the governor's remarks," Jackson said, because she is implying all urban schools suffer from fiscal mismanagement.

Whitman said having the funds monitored by auditors was a simple matter of accounting for a sudden rush of extra funding.

"It is not a reflection on those

particular districts," the governor said. "When you have 28 out of 611 districts that are going to in four months have the potential to absorb \$250 million dollars, you have to ensure that money is spent well."

Jackson said Whitman is treating urban schools differently from others, and that urban schools are the last that need such unusual scrutiny. "It does not take much to see that these funds are needed," he said.

Don King retried

BALTIMORE—NAACP President Kweisi Mfume spoke out recently against the government's decision to re-try sports promoter Don King on charges of wire fraud. Mfume said that the Department of Justice "is engaged in a major witch hunt that smacks of selective prosecution."

"The NAACP is outraged that the government would waste millions of dollars of taxpayers money to re-try a case that in any other circumstance would be considered a civil matter," Mfume said. "Don King is the subject of political persecution by a Justice Department that is out of control."

The Justice Department in the last four years has fast-tracked criminal investigations against former Congressman Harold Ford, former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, the late Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and boxing promoter Don King, all of whom are black men. "There is an unsettling pattern unfolding that suggests that it is open season on African Americans and other minorities who attain some level of political and economic power," Mfume said.

"The NAACP calls on all Americans who believe in fairness and equal treatment under the law to join us in speaking out against selective prosecutions and vendettas such as the one against Don King," Mfume said.

Minority males get state help

TRENTON—Legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Tom Smith that would create the Commission on the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Minority Male Group was approved by the General Assembly Friday.

Smith's bill, A-2265, would establish the 19 member commission in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

"It's clear that a commission is needed to address the specific problems facing African-American and Latino males in New Jersey," said Smith, D-Monmouth. "This commission will be responsible for identifying the problems particular to African-American and Latino males, in the areas of employment, criminal justice, education and health and for making recommendations to address their concerns."

The commission will oversee and supervise four separate subcommittees, one devoted to each of the targeted areas, Smith explained. "The commission will also conduct research to determine the nature and extent of the problems facing these males and to identify existing federal, state and local pro-

see COMMISSION FOR MINORITY MALES/PAGE 10

November showdown McGreevey vs. Whitman

By Darlie Lamont Jenkins

State Senator and Woodbridge Mayor James McGreevey narrowly won the Democratic Party's nod to face incumbent Governor Christie Todd Whitman in November. By only 7000 votes, he squeaked past Congressman Rob Andrews of Camden in an election that was a virtual dead heat all Tuesday evening.

The third major Democratic contender, former Morris County Prosecutor Michael Murphy, was unable to build the name recognition he needed and came in a distant third. Calls to his and Andrews' campaign offices were unanswered.

With 99.5% of the votes tallied, McGreevey had 40%, Andrews came in with 37%, Murphy had 21%, and lesser known candidate Frank Marmo rounded out the percentage with 2%.

McGreevey, 39, has been Mayor of Woodbridge since 1992 and in the State Senate serving the 19th district since 1994. He now prepares for what political insiders say will be an uphill battle to unseat

Governor Whitman, who has already begun his attacks on her opponent. During the primary, the Whitman

campaign put forth negative information on the three major candidates, often linking them to former

Governor Jim Florio, whose unpopularity after a \$2.8 billion tax hike in 1990 led to his narrow defeat to Whitman three years later.

Whitman, however is herself showing signs of vulnerability. Although her popularity has always remained high, it has declined over 10 percentage points since January, and the ruling by the Supreme Court against her school curriculum last month has also weakened her among voters.

Still, in polls during the primary campaigns, Whitman has been the wide favorite among voters over a Democratic pool that many seen as lackluster. McGreevey intends to use his past record as a mayor who brought 1,800 new jobs to Woodbridge and revitalized the downtown business district, and attack Whitman on her weak points, such as auto insurance, property taxes, and education. He has never lost an election to the Assembly, State Senate, or as Mayor.



Who will win?
Election '97

Community Calendar

Salute to Graduates

Weekly Horoscope

- JUNE 11-15**
ESSEX—The Blood Center of New Jersey open blood drive by county. For more information or to sign up to donate, call 1-800-blood NJ.
- JUNE 11-30**
JERSEY CITY—The Jersey City State College Women's Center will hold a series of free programs on topics ranging from college finances to AIDS. Pre-registration is required for all programs. For more information, call 201-200-3189.
- UNION**—Visitors will earn a Time Traveler Certificate from the County of Union when they obtain a "PassPort" to tour the county's historic house museums. For more information, call 908-558-2550.
- JUNE 11- JULY 23**
LONG BRANCH—Monmouth County Park system schedules competitive oceanfront volleyball league. For more information, call 908-842-4000.
- JUNE 11-16, 1997**
ELIZABETH—Union county's human division on aging announces outreach program schedule for June. For more information, call 908-527-4870.
- JUNE 14**
HOWELL—Monmouth County Park system invites you to enjoy Wintarthur in Spring. For more information or to register, call the Park System at 908-842-4000.
- TRENTON**—There's seafood to wet your appetite in Belmar at the 11th Annual New Jersey Seafood Festival. For more information call 1-800-Jersey-7.
- PLAINFIELD**—A Health Fair Extravaganza, sponsored by the Local Ministry of Health, of Muhammad's Mosque #90. For more information call 908-754-3272 or 908-499-8482.
- LINCROFT**—The Brookdale Community College sponsors the 12th Annual African-American Family Festival. For more information call 908-224-2315.
- JUNE 18**
NEWARK—Doing business with the Port Authority and the Aviation Industry sponsored by the Air Services Development Office. For more information, call 201-981-4278.
- JUNE 19**
NEW YORK—America Reconstruction Exhibition to open at Schenck Center. For more information call 212-491-2259.
- JUNE 21**
NEWARK—Kick-Off of the largest student chess tournament. For more information, call 201-733-4498.
- NEW YORK**—Diversity is the hallmark of Clineator's award-winning Great Hudson River Revival on the summer solstice weekend at the Westchester Community College. For more information call 800-67-SLOPP.
- NORTH BRUNSWICK**—"Family Fun Day" at Veterans Park, with live broadcast by WCTC radio. For more information call 908-745-7395.
- JUNE 21-22**
EDISON—Shortlarks Unlimited presents a Hawaiian Luau 5-ring CFA cat show, at the New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center. For more information, call 610-932-4845.
- JUNE 23**
CRANFORD—A new course in Personal Watercraft and Boating Safety will be introduced this summer by Union County College. For more information 709-7600.
- JUNE 26 - JULY 2**
WAYNE—William Peterson College to hold summer writing institute. For more information, call 201-595-2436.
- JUNE 28**
SAVREILLE—AntiqueFire Apparatus Muster & Flea Market. For more information, call 908-463-7445.
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Dr. LaFrances Rodgers-Rose (right), president and founder of the International Black Women's Congress, a non-profit, grassroots networking organization of women of African ancestry, delivered the keynote address at Jersey City State College's eleventh annual "Salute to Graduates of African Heritage" program. A clinical sociologist, professor, and tutor, Dr. Rodgers-Rose shared thoughts with honorees Jennifer Jeffries (second from left) of Willingboro and Nichole Wilson (second from right) of Hartford, Connecticut, and Lynn Idehan (left) of Elizabeth, a counselor for JCSG's College Bound Program, and Monica Solomon of Rahway, a counselor for JCSG's Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Seniors participate in black family summit



Shown are some of the residents at Essex Management Co. Senior Citizen Complex located at 1060 Broad St., Newark who participated in the Black Family Summit that was sponsored by the members of Beta Alpha Omega Chapter, Newark of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The seniors were given information on Money Management and Social Security. Melody Parker is president of Beta Alpha Omega.

Former gang member speaks

NEWARK—Former gang member turned motivational speaker Michael Chatman will challenge young people to take control of their lives in a personal, thought-provoking program at 18th Avenue School located at 229 18th Avenue, Newark on June 12, at 10:00 am. Chatman's program, entitled "It's Your Choice," will be hosted by YES Magazine the organizers of the Say "YES" to your Future New Jersey movement.

After joining a gang and facing a dramatic encounter with the law, Chatman learned that despite what the members of the gang said, his life was his own, and he had to live it. It was at that point that Chatman began developing the message he has shared with more than a million

Michael Chatman

young people to date. "We are pleased to bring Michael's personal message to Newark," said Curtis Greer, president of Quality Beer, the sponsor of the program. "Many of our employees have children and we are diligent about our role as a corporate partner within the community to help motivate young people to live happy and successful lives."

YES Magazine is a national school-based publication which provides youth in urban communities with positive reinforcement and valuable skill-building information. YES, which stands for Youth Empowered about Success, is currently used by schools and youth organizations in more than 38 U.S. States, as well as Puerto Rico, Canada, and Ghana.

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

Put out all stops this week and go ahead with those plans, everything you need is now in place. The idea of how things are supposed to be and reality will always be in conflict, so don't let it stop you. Matters on the horizon need to be taken care of.

TAURUS: (April 21-May 21)

Don't jump to conclusions about anything, if it looks to good to be true, it probably is. Look beyond appearances and check out all the facts first. Play your hunches, because your intuition is working overtime this week. Your evenings may be filled with intense romance.

GEMINI: (May 22-June 21)

Hindsight is always 20-20. So stop feeling sorry for yourself this week and look around to see just how rich and full your life really is. A friend may be just the remedy to pull you out of the doldrums. Take a tip from their enthusiasm and childlike sense of wonder.

CANCER: (June 22-July 23)

There is an overlooked detail in your financial dealings which needs to be searched out and taken care of, otherwise it may cause some inconvenience. Since you love tradition and are not overly fond of change, don't be alarmed of the changes, but roll with the punches.

LEO: (July 24-August 23)

This week may find you finishing a project with the help of a cool and calm approach. Take a moment to review your work and look for any possibly improvements for the next time. A little soul-searching is in order, so bring up old memories, however painful.

VIRGO: (August 24-September 23)

Your money matters may need a bit more juggling than usual during the week, and may be due to your dependance on someone who is not very dependable. Cut your losses and move on. Just who or what are you saving your love and affection for - put your own needs as a priority.

LIBRA: (September 24-October 23)

A calm and cool exterior will do more for you than hysteria this week. There is a good reason to not let your feelings get the best of you. Your primary love relationship seems to be heading in a new direction, one which will be beneficial for the both of you.

SCORPIO: (October 24-November 23)

The weight of the world seems to be on your shoulders during the week. Just continue to do a good job, but don't take it with such a life and death attitude. A lover or partner may be in hysterics, so just listen compassionately and save your reply until later.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23-December 21)

An opportunity this week needs to be seized now before it is snapped up by another. Things around you may have become a little slow, even to routine. Try something new to inject a little life into your every day living and let those creative juices start to flow.

CAPRICORN: (December 22-January 20)

A fortress in your life may be slowly crumbling away during the week, but if you look at the situation on a positive note, it may be able to provide you with the chance to rebuild according to your own design and desire. Don't take any foolish risks with your health.

AQUARIUS: (January 21-February 19)

Someone in your life seems to be trying to dominate you every move. This person needs to be put in their place with as much tact as possible, with no question of your intent. Things may be changing regarding your personal lifestyle, but it will work out for the best.

PISCES: (February 20-March 20)

The choices you make this week will depend on your ability to tell the difference between what looks good and what is really in your best interest. You must be able to maintain a certain level of enthusiasm if you want to accomplish everything on an if this week is your birthday: You are naturally very practical and grounded in your thoughts and actions. Your fondness for comfort will find you in plush surroundings and sensual pleasures are very important to you. You prefer monogamous relationships, where you can put your best foot forward.

North Ward center honors Robert Treat



On Friday May 15, 1987, about 200 adults and children gathered at the Robert Treat Academy in Newark, to unveil a plaque honoring Newark's Founder, Robert Treat, for which the school is named. The Robert Treat Academy, one of sixteen charter schools in New Jersey, is located at 460 1st. Prospect Street in Newark, New Jersey. Special guests in attendance included descendants of Robert Treat, Senator John Ewing, Assemblyman Joseph Dorla, James Caulfield - former Sp. of Union Twp. Schools, Delta Georgetown-State Dept of Education, and from Newark Public Schools-Easthills Christie and Linda Ocasio.

Uncles Ben's Inc. announces "Good cook" cook off" contest

HOUSTON—Do your friends love to come over to your house because your mom or dad is an awesome cook? Can they whip together a delicious meal in minutes, even though the refrigerator and cabinets look bare? If this sounds like something your parents can do with one hand tied behind their backs, get your pens and paper out to nominate your mom or dad to compete in the first ever Uncle Ben's "Good Cooks' Cook Off" Contest.

The grand prize winner will walk away with a whopping \$5,000. The second place winner will receive \$2,000 and the third place winner will receive \$1,000. The prizes include a supply of UNCLE BEN'S products and winners will also have the chance to work with a famous chef.

All entries must be submitted by July 31, 1997 to: Uncle Ben's Good Cooks' Cook Off, P.O. Box 11172, Chicago, Illinois 60611. The eight finalists will be notified by August 15, 1997. All entries become the property of Uncle Ben's, Inc. and will not be returned. Void where prohibited. All contest entries subject to official rules.

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Failure required before success, says Oprah

WELLESLEY, Mass. — Television talk show host Oprah Winfrey roused Wellesley College graduates Friday with the news that they may need to fail in order to succeed.

Winfrey told the Wellesley women that, in her own life, she had turned "wounds into wisdom" by leaving a stumbling career as a television news anchorwoman to become a talk show host.

"It was through my series of mistakes that I learned to be better Oprah," Winfrey said.

"Failure is really God's way of saying, 'Excuse me, you're moving in the wrong direction. It's just an experience,'" she said to the 546 graduates.

"I took what had been perceived as a failure in the business and turned it into a TV talk show career that has been pretty good to me."

Winfrey spoke Friday with self-deprecating humor about growing up in segregated Mississippi, where she said she had only Buckwheat as a role model.

Later, as a television news anchor, she tried to follow in the footsteps of Barbara Walters. But when she mispronounced the word "blase" and burst out laughing, Winfrey said, she decided to try something else.

"If I had gone to Wellesley, I would have known it was blase," Winfrey quipped, pronouncing it correctly.

She challenged graduates to "create the highest, grandest vision possible for your life, because you become what you believe."

"The key to her success, Winfrey said, was to understand "a power greater than myself" ruled her life.

"If you can be still long enough to connect yourself to the force—I call it God—anything is possible for you. I am proof of that," she said.

Among the women graduating Friday was Wendy Graham, daughter of Stedman Graham, Winfrey's longtime boyfriend.

She conceded she "started to weep" as the graduates filed in.

"I know what it takes to get through here, and I'm so proud of all of you," Winfrey said.

Country Club head alleges racism

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The vice president of an all-white suburban Pittsburgh country club has resigned, accusing board members of racism in denying membership to a black television executive.

Eddie Edwards, chief executive officer of WPIT-TV in Monroeville, was rejected 5-to-4 last week by the board of directors of the Edgewood Country Club in Churchill. This week, Wayne Smith Jr. of Greensburg quit the board.

"The bigots and racists who influenced the board to reject Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Edwards' application for membership make it impossible for me to serve any longer. I don't wish to represent that kind of constituency," Smith said.

Edwards was rejected despite unanimous approval from the club's membership committee.

"It's our understanding that in recent history, no member who has been unanimously selected (by the committee) has been denied membership (by the board)," said Edwards' attorney, former Pittsburgh Steeler Dwayne Woodruff.

Bruce Dice, a Murrysville lawyer who sponsored Edwards, said he received anonymous, derogatory telephone calls, and he said somebody wrote "KKK" across his club locker.

Dice said board members told him that Patrick Thomassey, a Monroeville lawyer, persuaded other members to vote against Edwards.

They said Thomassey told the group that Edwards used his talk show to criticize Thomassey's defense of a white police officer charged in the death of a black motorist. Thomassey did not return a telephone message Friday.

—from the AP wire service

Anita Hill fears skeptics will distort Clinton-Jones case

Hill predicts any outcome to be a lose-lose situation.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anita Hill, the woman whose allegations of sexual harassment against Clarence Thomas thrust the issue into national prominence, says the Paula Jones case presents a "great conundrum."

Writing in Newsweek magazine's edition appearing on newsstands today, Hill said the potential outcomes of the Jones case against President Clinton has "enormous social significance" to "those of us who care about sexual harassment."

If Jones wins her harassment suit against the president, Hill wrote, "then we must face the fact that we helped to elect someone

Bill Clinton, who has betrayed us on this vital issue."

If Clinton prevails and Jones' story that he propositioned her is proven false, "We must contend that we pushed onto the public agenda an issue that is vulnerable to manipulation by alleged victims," she wrote.

Hill, then a University of Oklahoma law professor, captured

national attention in the summer of 1991 with testimony before Congress that Thomas harassed her when she worked for him several years before. Despite a contentious hearing, Thomas won a seat on the Supreme Court.

In a "Face the Nation" interview Sunday, Hill predicted "fallout regardless of who prevails."

"Those who are skeptical about

the issue ... will use the outcome to question whether or not we should be pursuing this issue as vigorously as we have been," she said.

But Hill said Jones has an advantage that she didn't have when making her allegations—the courts.

"The judicial system can put aside politics to decide these complicated issues," Hill wrote in Newsweek.

Whitman's law requires stiff sentence for church burning

Whitman's law imposes minimum 15 years.

TRENTON (AP) — Arsonists who set fire to churches, synagogues or places of worship will get a minimum 15 years behind bars with no chance for parole under a new law Gov. Christie Whitman signed on Monday.

"A church burning anywhere is a threat to communities of faith everywhere," Whitman said. "We cannot allow fear to compromise the freedom of religion."

Previously, arson that was not committed for financial gain was considered a second- or third-degree crime with penalties ranging from three to 10 years, according to Whitman spokesman Peter McDonough.

The new law elevates arson to a first-degree crime, with a maximum penalty of 20 years in jail and a \$100,000 fine when it targets a church, temple, synagogue or other place of worship.

Nationwide, more than 330 predominantly black churches have been targets of arson, bombings and attempted bombings since 1995.

In New Jersey, the One Voice Baptist Church in Tinton Falls and most recently, the First Baptist Church in Glassboro were burned



Assemblyman Tom Smith

beyond repair.

"We lost a lot," said the Rev. Irwin Coleman, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Glassboro, during the bill signing ceremony. "A lot of memories (were) in that church. A lot of history was in that church. We had some beautiful stained glass windows that had been in there for generations, and all of the stained glass windows were destroyed."

Assemblyman Tom Smith, R-Monmouth, a sponsor of the bill, said the new law makes it clear that arson will not serve as a method of intimidation.

"We are sending a message that these acts of violence will not divide us," Smith said. "They will not destroy our faith or our community. They will simply make us stronger."

Thousands across U.S. stand for youth

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Families and children participated in Stand For Children activities this weekend in more than 550 communities across the country.

Highlights of the grassroots events included 5,000 children and families in New York who gathered to learn about children's health needs and to see Sesame Street's Elmo and Gordon at P.S. 41 elementary school. Hundreds of children were enrolled in the state's Medicaid and Child Health Plus insurance programs. Mobile health vans were on site for children's dental and eye screenings.

"The energy and enthusiasm demonstrated in the Stand For Children events across the country should be an inspiration to us all," said Marian Wright Edelman, Stand For Children Founder and Children's Defense Fund President. "These events will lay the important groundwork we need to ensure that every child gets a healthy start in life, with the health coverage they need to grow and thrive."

At all the events, the hundreds of thousands of Stand For Children participants signed Stand For Healthy Children petitions. Individuals can also sign the petition and participate in the "virtual"



Marchers of the Central New Jersey Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. came out in force.

Stand For Children on the Internet. To date, there have been over 1 million "hits" on the Stand For Children web site.

Organizers estimate that approximately 17,000 visitors have participated in the "virtual" Stand For Children on the Internet, www.stand.org. On-line and paper petitions will be delivered to national, state and local leaders in the coming weeks in an effort to urge them to take whatever steps are necessary to provide a healthy start for all America's children.

What are you doing to help our nation's youth?

Tell City News about it. Write to us at: CN Letters, PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060

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Fishburne travels to war-torn Africa



Photo by Gregory H. Smith

Laurence Fishburne, National Ambassador for the US Committee for UNICEF (left), speaks with a young man who lost his right arm during the seven-year civil war in Liberia.

NEW YORK — Following in the footsteps of legendary UNICEF Ambassadors Audrey Hepburn and Harry Belafonte, Laurence Fishburne traveled to war-torn Liberia during a three-day mission with the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. It was the first goodwill mission for the actor, playwright, director, and producer who was appointed a National Ambassador for the U.S. Committee for UNICEF in June 1996.

While in Liberia, a country currently surviving with no electrical power or running water, Mr. Fishburne visited numerous UNICEF-assisted projects that aid

the many women and children who have been affected by a seven-year civil war.

It is estimated that more than 15,000 children were recruited to serve as soldiers for the armed factions, forcing them to participate and witness violent acts of brutality. Reflecting on the children who have been traumatized by the war, Mr. Fishburne said, "These children are a living example of the best of human nature. They have no bitterness. They just want to gain the skills necessary to reconstruct their lives. They are truly the country's most valuable resource and I will work diligently towards helping them achieve their goals."

- Black Church Arsons
- Attack on Affirmative Action
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EDITORIAL

Dr. Shabazz needs us as we needed her

It seems only in bad times that we recognize the good that we have among us, and said to say that rings true again with Dr. Betty Shabazz. We do recognize what a strong, remarkable soul she is, however, and we will be with her as she fights back against this recent tragedy.

We were there for her when her husband was gunned down and when her daughter was facing criminal charges for allegedly plotting to murder Minister Farrakhan. We will also be there for her grandson, a child with a troubled life in need more of our understanding than our scorn. We remember that as Black America struggled for survival, Dr. Shabazz has been on the front lines, guiding us on our way. She upheld the legacy of Malcolm X and made certain that future generations will remember this great teacher. With her reconciliation with Minister Farrakhan, she showed us that we must be focused on the real goal, and not get bogged down with things that seek to divide men. She is there on the front lines now, and always will be, whether physically or in spirit. A fighter of her caliber is a rare thing, indeed, and it is that kind of fighter that is able to battle back from such a harrowing experience.

We must recognize our heroes and uplift them every day of our lives. We should be able to say thank you to them as they are still here with us. We at the City News wish Dr. Shabazz well and ask everyone of us to pray for a speedy recovery. We also salute her for being there when we needed her. Now we can return the favor, but sadly, it could be nowhere near the contribution she has made to us as a people.

Commentary

Tribute to a father of civilization

by Kal A. Niyon

The word, "Father" according to Webster's New World Dictionary means in part, "to take the responsibility for." According to the teachings of the Hon. Elijah Muhammad the original man is the Asiatic blackman, the maker, the owner, the creator of the planet earth, the father of civilization, and god of the universe. A father has the responsibility of securing and protecting his family.

I want to tell you about a father, a man, who has shown and proven what a father should be. Dr. Henry C. Johnson is a man who has embraced an education that has led him to a life in the field of communications. He is a man who had a vision which includes his wife, Jan and three children, Jill, Jeremie and C.J.

Dr. Frances C. Weising, author of *The Isis Papers*, writes: "In the Old Testament of the Bible, the prophet Isaiah says, 'Where there is no vision, the people will perish.' 'Vision' means the ability to understand the present in its totality and to organize one's behavior in the present to meet successfully the challenge of circumstance, present and future. A people that does not understand, and thus fails to teach, each generation that potential mothers and fathers must be able to carry out certain basic functions (going far beyond mere material provisions) in relationships with their children is a people without vision. Dr. Johnson has shown and proved that he understands this reality."

One morning I came to work and the Johnson's were sitting at the table in his office having a breakfast/meeting, discussing the future of their establishment, City News. I thought to myself, what more can a man want? He has his wife and children working with him (making his vision a reality). He has secured his wife and children through his

vision.

He has enough knowledge, wisdom and understanding to provide a job for his wife and children. Could you imagine how they must feel knowing their Father has laid a foundation for them to build upon? Knowing their Father and Mother is right there for them 8 hours a day (plus more)? Not having to worry about looking for a job, fulfilling some other man's vision? What a man! I think that we should take note from such a man. We should all strive to lay a foundation for our children to build on.

Being a Black Man in America is not an easy life. It is a life of struggle after struggle, facing and striving to overcome obstacle after obstacle. Yet, this Black Man has taken a stand to overcome the obstacles in his path and is doing what's necessary for his family. His duties and responsibilities are not confined to his immediate family but the larger family of our people, he is doing his part in the struggle of liberation of our people. Dr. Henry C. Johnson is doing just that. I can admire and respect a man like that.

He has committed his life to educating others, teaching others to "think" and to be "critical" in their thinking. He has acquired an education and brought his knowledge back to the community, to serve his community. Minister Louis Farrakhan states on page 47, *A Torchlight for America*, "The second purpose for education, after self-cultivation, is to teach us how to give proper service to self, family, community, nation and then to the world."

After being employed by him, he told me that I can call him "Dr. Johnson or Henry." But seeing that he is a doctor (one who administers to the sick—mentally), out of much deserving respect, I call him "Dr. Johnson." He has caused me to think things through, to solve problems as opposed to giving me a simple answer to the problems. What a man!

Through his publications and lectures, he keeps people informed on issues and events that help educate us to what's happening in our society. He helps us achieve the best that is within ourselves. He has taken on the responsibility of being a FATHER OF CIVILIZATION and with that I say, "We should honor and respect him for a job well done."

Happy Father's Day
to those with the special charge of raising our young people

OPINION

There's hope in the Betty Shabazz tragedy

by Askia Muhammad

People around the world are literally holding their breath and praying, awaiting news about the courageous fight for life by Dr. Betty Shabazz, the widow of Muslim and Black nationalist leader, Brother Malcolm X.

Dr. Shabazz received three degrees, the most severe, covering more than 80 percent of her body in a suspicious fire that may have been started by her own grandson and named her murdered husband. As anyone who has touched a hot object, or burned his or her tongue on food or drink can attest that burns are probably the most painful injuries one can suffer.

The massive brain area suffered by Dr. Shabazz is surely life threatening. Her pain must be excruciating, hence her courage now, and throughout the last 35 years has been shown to be enormous.

Although she was reportedly conscious when authorities rescued her from her home, she has remained in critical condition, in and out of a coma while some of the most prominent people in this country have visited and comforted her

family members who have been at her bedside in a New York hospital or publicly expressed their wishes for her full and speedy recovery.

Like the characters in an epic Greek tragedy, the story of the Shabazz family now touches four generations. Brother Malcolm's father, Earl Little, a Christian preacher and a follower of the Honorable Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) was assassinated by white night-riders. His home in Indiana had been torched, driving young Malcolm and his family out of his home and into the night. His mother, reportedly snapped under the strain, suffering a nervous breakdown.

Now, like his own parents (albeit 30-some-odd years later), Malcolm's wife, our heroine, Dr. Betty Shabazz, has been struck down. Her recovery will take months, years.

When her husband was killed, Dr. Shabazz already had a young daughter, and was at the time, expecting twins. Tragedy has hobbled one of them, Qubilah Shabazz, with criminal charges. Sadly, it is apparently Qubilah's son Malcolm who stands accused of setting the fire that has so grievously injured his grandmother. Grievous

pain, striking four generations of a family that has given much courage and encouragement to the 20th century Black liberation struggle.

If there is any consolation for us who now pray for the recovery of Dr. Betty Shabazz, I offer this: The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Brother Malcolm's mentor and teacher who set him on the platform that attracted world-wide attention, taught us that the name Shabazz means "the greater taker."

Mr. Muhammad told us that Mr. Shabazz was a Black scientist, who led his followers into the jungles of what was then known as West Asia (now known as Africa) to prove that he could conquer the wild jungle.

We Black people in America, Mr. Muhammad taught us, are not just descendants of Mr. Shabazz, we ourselves, are all Shabazz. We are all the greater takers, and the experience of our people in slavery, which did not break or destroy us, proves it.

It is said: "that which does not kill us, makes us stronger." I hope and pray that after this we will see a stronger Betty Shabazz whose bonds with us and with her family, will be stronger.

Part II

Are Black Cops Under Fire?

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson, Ph.D.

The year after the shooting of Black Orange County Sheriff's Deputy, Darryl Leroy Robb, by his white training partner in December, 1993, Adrienne Curreton was also on the receiving end of police violence. While investigating a missing child case, the six-year veteran of the Philadelphia police department was accosted and savagely beaten by a half dozen white officers. The beating continued even after she shouted that she was a police officer. The officers stopped only when a Black officer intervened. A badly shaken Curreton said: "It was like Rodney King." No legal action was taken against the officers.

According to the National Black Police Association, the Curreton beating was the third attack on Black officers by white police in one month. Following the Robinson shooting and the Curreton beating, the Association and the New York

Grand Council of Guardians, a Black fraternal organization that represents 11,000 Black law enforcement officers, demanded that Janet Reno and the Justice Department investigate the "continuing trend" of attacks nationally on Black officers.

When Black officers are attacked by white officers, is it a case of racism, job stress, or mistaken identity? Ira Harris, former deputy superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, and executive director of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement officers, insists that fear and prejudice may push many white officers over the racial edge. "No matter how much training an officer gets, how he reacts in a situation on the streets depends on his own apprehensions and prejudices."

It's that fear that causes Jimmy I.L. Brown to always carry his police I.D. wherever he goes. Brown, who is chief of services for Miami's Metro Dade Police Department,

recalls being confronted by a white state trooper while working undercover during one of Miami's periodic racial blowups. "I showed him my badge and he said 'I still don't trust you, expecting twins. Tragedy has hobbled one of them, Qubilah Shabazz, with criminal charges. Sadly, it is apparently Qubilah's son Malcolm who stands accused of setting the fire that has so grievously injured his grandmother. Grievous

When Black officers come under fire, many feel angered that the force has betrayed them. They charge that some police officials under intense pressure from the mostly white police unions refuse to firmly discipline white officers accused of misconduct. In 1996, before the shooting of off-duty LAPD officer Kevin Gaines by a white LAPD officer during a traffic confrontation, Leonard Ross, president of the Oscar Joel Bryant Foundation, a group that represents Black LAPD officers, branded the Los Angeles Police Protective League, "the gatekeepers of oppression and racism."

The Black officers sued the

League for using union dues to defend officers Stanley Koon and Laurence Powell, charged with beating Rodney King and excluding Black officers from its board of directors. The tendency of union and police officials to protect white officers accused of brutality is the "foundation" of the "them versus us" police culture, says Ron Hampton, executive director of the National Black Police Officers Association.

Though Haubert Williams, former Newark police chief and president of the Police Foundation, thinks that things have gotten better. "The trend within police departments is no longer to unquestioningly protect corrupt or brutal police officers," he warns that police departments still have a long way to go to break their siege mentality. James, criminologist and former New York police officer goes further, "You have to change the culture so that certain things are not tolerated."

One Little Step

By George Wilson

President Clinton recently hosted a ceremony in the White House to apologize to the survivors of a sinister experiment that was conducted over 40 years ago in the name of science. A group of African-American men who lived in Tuskegee, Ala. were used as guinea pigs in a sanctioned government experiment which allowed some of them to be carriers of syphilis without their knowledge. Even though penicillin was available, these men weren't treated and were allowed to infect others. After years of fighting,

the government admitted that a terrible wrong had taken place and provided a settlement to those affected.

According to those who had the task of providing the proper "spin" or interpretation of the event, the move was a way of winning the confidence of African Americans so that we would have trust in the medical establishment. The other purpose was to bridge the racial gap that infects America in the same way that malady like syphilis infect their hosts.

During his inaugural address, the President made several references to race and his intention to deal with this vexing problem. But,

Is 41 years too long?

By Carolyn L. Bennett

A separate but unequal segregationist Dixiecrat turned-Republican named from page news recently for a record-setting 41 years in the United States Senate. And, said to say, a lot of black folk gave something priceless for that record.

Sen. (James) Strom Thurmond (R-SC) was a contemporary of NAACP, SNCC and Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party leader Ella Jo Baker. He was all that she stood against. And for 50 years, he hasn't changed much.

Today as yesterday he stands against the substance of civil rights, labor and education. As black prisoners formed the majority on death row and working people fell on hard times in this industrial transition, Mr. Thurmond voted against striking workers and against death row prisoners seeking unlimited appeals of their cases.

The Americans for Democratic Action, ACLU and League of Conservation Voters rated his record 0 to 10 on a 100-point scale in the early 1990s. The issues they were concerned with were: equality,

the government admitted that a terrible wrong had taken place and provided a settlement to those affected.

Some reports say, early in his political career Sen. Thurmond had a progressive interest in education.

Federal Election Commission data shows that of 790,000 blacks in South Carolina, roughly 45 percent bothered to vote. In the South as a whole, roughly 10 percent of the group most likely to be killed by violence or go on death row without appeal, the 18 to 24-year-olds, bothered to vote.

If these good black folk helped the Senator sit in office 41 years because they wanted to practice the power their religion gives them to forgive, then they should give up that power. Give up the gift of forgiveness that presses a man's foot harder on their necks.

To march proudly into the 21st century, we must sacrifice some things, savor what's ours and choose our friends well and wisely. Forty years ago, after the civil rights work of the 1950s and '60s, we came to a crossroads crying out for new coalitions for progress.

it's going to take much more than a well-orchestrated, sound byte laden performance to achieve real results.

As I watched the recent ceremony, I experienced mixed emotions. On one hand, I was happy that the move was a way of winning the confidence of African Americans so that we would have trust in the medical establishment. The other purpose was to bridge the racial gap that infects America in the same way that malady like syphilis infect their hosts.

There is no question that we need a national dialogue on race relations. Unfortunately, it's going to take a lot more than warm words from the Rose Garden to make things better. If the President really wants to make things better for a group that has endured prolonged hardship and suffering, he should announce his support for a bill authored by John Conyers (DMT) that calls for a closer examination of reparations for African Americans. Amazingly, this group's voice is not heard though others have received

payment for atrocities committed against them. Yet, years of free labor, poor housing and the consistent denial of opportunities should have some monetary value.

Apologizing for the Tuskegee Experiment was a good gesture. However, it was just a mere appetizer. The main course hasn't been touched. As more and more information is available, it becomes abundantly clear that the quality of life for too many African Americans is declining as a result of several policies which have emanated from the White House. Most notably, the so-called welfare reform legislation and the crime bill which seem to imply that a jail cell is better than a job.

And as the furor over the alleged linking of crack cocaine in inner city communities continues to swirl, many wonder when an apology will come for the devastation created by the dumping of tons of that lethal substance into our communities.

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NEWARK SCHOOLS SEEK PARENT, STAFF FEEDBACK

NEWARK—In an effort to take the pulse of the school community, The Newark Public Schools are launching a districtwide School Reform Feedback survey. The survey will provide baseline information that will allow school district officials to gauge the progress of efforts to improve the Newark school system.

"It is appropriate that we obtain feedback from both staff and parents on the impact of the initiatives of the Strategic Plan," said State District Superintendent Dr. Beverly L. Hall. "Her perceptions and comments will help to establish the program priorities for the 1997-1998 school year."

This week, all teachers and staff in Newark's 80 schools received questionnaires. Next week, parents and guardians will receive the survey. Six thousand teachers and staff received a four-page questionnaire that asks them whether they "Agree," "Disagree," or "Need More Information" on a number of statements grouped under nine categories. The categories include: School-Based Planning; "High Academic Standards," "Integrated Technology," and "Clean and Safe Environment."

Forty-five thousand two-page surveys will be sent to the parents and guardians of Newark schoolchildren.

"We look forward to a good rate of responses from both staff and parents," said Dr. Hall. School district officials expect to have the results of the survey in July.

NEWARK PROPERTY AUCTIONS BRING IN \$2 MILLION

NEWARK—All but one of the city-owned properties put on the auction block today were sold by the City of Newark bringing in its real property sales for 1997 to more than \$2.2 million. Mayor Sharpe James hailed the successful events, which generated \$282,762 for the purchase of 42 structures and 16 vacant lots. "This just underscores the attraction that Newark holds for investors. With the opening of the Performing Arts Center, the City's growth as a major transportation hub and the resurgence of our residential neighborhoods, more and more firms and individuals want to do business in Newark."

Today's auction saw purchase prices range from \$44,000 for the former Copino's night club on Sanford Avenue, to \$720 for a small structure on Peshine Avenue, according to Johnny Jones, manager of the division of property management. Over 230 people attended the property sale at Symphony Hall's Terrace Ballroom.

This is the second auction held this year. The first, held in February, raised \$1.4 million. Another is scheduled for late June.

CRUMP PRAISES MEN OF VISION

NEWARK—Cities require more than governments and bureaucrats to make them work. They need dynamic people to drive them, to mine the unlimited potential that fuels their progress.

On Sunday, June 8, at-Large Councilwoman, Mildred Crump hosted the 2nd annual "Men of Vision" breakfast in honor of six such individuals at the Robert Treat hotel, 50 Park Place, Newark. The event is open to the public.

The honorees for 1997 are: Edwin Arocho, North Ward; Philip Thomas, West Ward; Fernando Linares, East Ward; Arthur Coles, Central Ward; and Kenneth Travitt, South Ward. The Young Father's Program of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ will receive the Organization Award.

Everyone is encouraged to join the celebration, all that is required is a \$40 donation per ticket. Mrs. Crump asks if someone cannot personally attend that they sponsor a disabled or senior citizen. Tickets may be ordered by calling 201-923-1874.

LOCAL

Officer kills suspected car thief during chase

NEWARK (AP) — The family of a man shot to death in a stolen car following a chase by police want to know why an officer killed him.

They shouldn't have shot my brother, but who am I to tell?" William Estrella told The Star-Ledger for Monday's editions. "I want justice. It's a tragedy."

Jeffrey Estrella, 25, of Newark died Saturday after he was shot in the neck by Patrolman Paul

Carnicella following a brief chase in the car that had been stolen Friday in Jersey City.

Three police cars were able to box in the car Estrella was driving, but when the officers got out of their cars, Estrella began moving backward and forward, "damaging the police vehicles and making enough room for an escape route," said Lt. Anthony Ambrose.

Estrella then accelerated toward Patrolman Darryl Salters and struck him, forcing Carnicella to fire, Ambrose said. The car traveled a few feet before striking another car, slightly injuring its driver.

Estrella's passenger, Agapito Soler Jr., 35, of Newark, tried to flee but was caught and charged with receiving stolen property.

Victor Herrera was across the street in his dog truck and wit-

nessed the incident. "The cops drew their guns and told them to get out," Herrera said. "They just wanted to evade. It could have been a lot worse for the officer."

Ambrose said the incident would be investigated by the department's homicide and internal affairs units and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. Salters was treated for a leg

injury, while Carnicella was "pretty shaken up" over the shooting, Ambrose said.

William Estrella said his younger brother had been released from prison in February after serving about six years and had a drug problem. "I tried to get him straight," he said. "He was a good kid who grew up in the wrong area. I loved him. It's a crying shame."

Student athletes honored



Jerome Greco (left), senior vice president of First Union National Bank and Willis Reed (right), Nets vice president, honor Kevin Sinclair (center), "Athlete of the Year."

By Kenneth D. McGill

EAST RUTHERFORD — New Jersey's best High School athletes were honored with athlete of the month and year awards on June 4, by the New Jersey Nets/First Union National Bank.

Kevin Sinclair of Ocean City High School in Ocean City, New Jersey was one of the selected two chosen as athlete of the year for 1996-97.

Sinclair, a senior football player, holds 15 school records, and set eight new Cape Atlantic League records in scoring and rushing yardage. Kevin started all four years at Ocean City helping his team win 25 out of 26 regular season games with him in the lineup.

Asked on his feeling about winning the award: "It feels good. You feel superior to other athletes." Sinclair plans on attending Rutgers University in the fall with intentions on turning their football program around.

Winning athlete of the month

award for track in March was Plainfield High School student, Charmaine Walker. "It was an honor being nominated," said Walker who ran track for 13 years. "I feel good. I really can't describe it, it's just a good feeling to be honored this way." Among her many accomplishments, Walker broke records in every track meet this year and is the first girl from New Jersey to break a record at a National Meet as one of only four New Jersey record holders. Walker was accepted to Villanova where she will attend under full scholarship.

Other honorees were: Cooper Rego, St. Joseph Regional HS; Steve Slattery, Mt. Olive HS; Anthony Perry, St. Anthony HS; David Slawinski, East Brunswick HS; Don Prizella, Lyndhurst HS; Jack Crust, Immaculate HS; Kelly Tokuda and Laura Tynio, Clinton HS; Lorraine Vizzuso, West Essex HS; Kirsten Rossotti, Caldwell HS; Dara Crocker, Columbia HS; and Kelly Hecking, Rutherford HS.

Plainfield school named for Ron Brown



From left: Ron Brown School Chairperson, Greta Grace Williams and Michael Brown, son of the late Secretary of Commerce head Ron Brown, were on hand to open the school.

By Candace Waller

PLAINFIELD — Ronald Brown's son Michael came to show support for education by participating in the Ronald H. Brown School of Global Issues (RBSGI) dedication ceremony and reception named for his deceased father. The May 29 event took place at the Maxson Middle School.

Ron Brown was the highest ranking Black official in President Bill Clinton's administration before he was killed in a plane crash in April of 1996.

Plainfield Mayor Mark Fury's life was touched personally by Mr. Brown. Fury along with other African-American mayors, were part of the president's delegation to view Haiti's election at Brown's request.

"Ron Brown thought it was important for African-American mayors to see what's going on in other countries," Fury said before he donated a picture of himself with Brown to the school.

Young people entering RBSGI honored him in very creative ways. Shantiesha Davis gave an overview of Ron Brown's life and Carol Forsythe wrote a poem called "The Life of Ronald H. Brown." Glen Adams sang a moving rendition of R. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly," while Atiyah Allen and Neionia Lucy Morris danced.

"I think young people don't have a connection with the community," Brown said. "When young people come to adults, we should listen to them and not be so quick to punish them."

Greta Grace Williams, chairperson of RBSGI, promised to bring a standard of excellence to the students enrolled in the program.

"You parents have entrusted us with precious jewels. We have to polish and protect the children," Williams said. "We promise you at the Ronald H. Brown School of Global Issues to do that."

The RBSGI has 150 students enrolled in the program.

\$13 million requested for Irvington property tax relief measure

IRVINGTON — Assemblyman Craig A. Stanley and a coalition of concerned Irvington residents and civic leaders formally unveiled legislation that would provide \$13 million in state aid to avert devastating property tax increases in the township.

The property-tax relief measure is in response to the state Local Finance Board's March ratification of a municipal budget that is forcing Irvington's property taxpayers to shoulder the financial fallout from years of financial mismanagement at City Hall during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"The state is penalizing Irvington's residents for the ill-advised financial management decisions made at City Hall over the past several years," said Stanley (D-Irvington). "It is a cruel injustice to force Irvington's property owners to pay a price for the mistakes committed by township officials. The state is literally holding the city's property taxpayers hostage in their own community."

Stanley outlined details of his bill at a news conference in front of the home of an Irvington resident who is feeling the pinch of the egregious property tax hike.

The bill (A-2989) would provide Irvington with a \$6.5 million state grant and a \$6.5 million state loan to relieve Irvington residents of crushing property tax increases

stemming from the Local Finance Board's interference in the municipal budget-adoption process earlier this year. Irvington's municipal fiscal operations were brought under state supervision after the discovery of a series of widespread financial irregularities — notably spending more money than allowed under a series of annual township budgets.

Stanley said the revenue for the grant and loan would come from the \$550 million surplus in the state budget. He said Irvington would be required to pay back the state loan with interest over a five-year period.

"If the Whitman administration can find \$94 million to help finance casino mogul Steve Wynn's tunnel construction project in Atlantic City, then the same sort of assistance ought to be provided to property taxpayers in Irvington," said Stanley.

The assemblyman said there is precedence for the state to help out residents of communities where



Assemblyman Craig Stanley

crippling property tax increases were imposed by the Local Finance Board after the discovery of financial mismanagement. He said the state provided a similar loan and grant package to North Bergen in Hudson County after its financial operations were taken over by the state in 1985.

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NAVESINK: Highway 26 and Valley Road
PLAINFIELD: 125 Washington Avenue
SHORT HILLS: 1000 Morris Avenue
The Mill (Old Line)

SPRINGFIELD:
173 Madison Avenue
MILLBURG: 200 Madison Avenue
NAVESINK: Highway 26 and Valley Road
PLAINFIELD: 125 Washington Avenue
SHORT HILLS: 1000 Morris Avenue
The Mill (Old Line)

UNION:
173 Madison Avenue
MILLBURG: 200 Madison Avenue
NAVESINK: Highway 26 and Valley Road
PLAINFIELD: 125 Washington Avenue
SHORT HILLS: 1000 Morris Avenue
The Mill (Old Line)

REPORTS FOR INQUIRY TO 800-800-8000

Business Calendar

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

NEW YORK—Annual Forum, "Working Partnerships Entering the 21st Century: The Small Contractor and the Workforce," sponsored by the Regional Alliance for Small Contractors. At the Marriott World Trade Center. For more information, call 212-435-8185.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

NEW YORK—Marketing Strategies & Techniques Seminar at Jacob K. Javits Federal Building. For more information, call 212-264-1234.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

SPRINGFIELD—Free investment seminar, "How to Realize Your Retirement Dreams," at the Holiday Inn. For more information, call 1-800-347-5018.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

NEW YORK—Seminar, "Profit Making Sales Strategies" at the Holiday Inn. For more information, call 718-522-3630.

Fax Business events to City News Biz Cal 908-753-1036

Investors Saving Bank earns five stars

MILLBURN — "Investors Saving Bank's ability to maintain superior five-star strength and performance through multiple business cycles is commendable and a true measure of banking excellence," said Paul A. Bauer, president of Bauer Financial Reports, Inc., an awarding Investors Savings Bank, the highest honor a financial institution can earn, for the 25th consecutive calendar quarter.

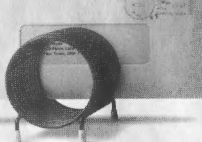
Only when an institution's tangible capital ratio and/or risk-based capital ratios (the two barometers most watched by regulators) exceed twice the federal regulatory requirements can a bank receive Bauer's five-star "superior" rank.

"The 'excellence' the Bauer report referred to is the result of the conservative policy that we have always stood by," said Patrick J. Grant, president and CEO of Investors Savings Bank.

"Investors has always been strong and sound, and that's something that both Bauer and our customers alike appreciate," he concluded.

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Plainfield residents gain 24-hour ATM service at Summit Bank

PLAINFIELD — Recently, Mayor Mark Fury joined Summit Bank in its continuing efforts to help revitalize the City of Plainfield when he helped to unveil a new automated teller machine in the community. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Summit Bank branch located at 335 East Front Street. The new ATM, the first on the east side of town, will be accessible to residents, area businesses and senior citizens who live in three senior complexes nearby.

"We are thrilled by the growing relationship between the City of Plainfield and Summit Bank," said Mayor Fury. "I am confident that through this relationship, Summit Bank will continue to expand service to our residents."

Janet Strunk, Summit vice president and market manager added, "Summit Bank has been serving the Plainfield community for nearly 15 years. In addition to the new ATM, we also plan to expand the drive-up service to two lanes by year end."

Summit Bank is the principal subsidiary of Summit Bancorp (NYSE: SUB). Through its banking subsidiaries, Summit Bancorp has over \$23 billion in assets, \$18 billion in deposits, a network of over 370 traditional and supermarket branches throughout New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania, and 525 ATMs. Its major lines of business are commercial banking, retail banking, private banking and investment management.



Shown left to right: Janet Strunk, Summit vice president and market manager; Mayor Mark Fury, City of Plainfield; Evangeline Walker, Summit Bank manager; and Maurice Spagnoli; senior regional manager of Summit's Tri-county region.

National Urban League president calls for new business spirit

CLEVELAND (AP)—Entrepreneurial spirit is the key to defeating poverty in the inner cities, said the president of the National Urban League during the organization's National Economic Development Summit.

The Cleveland Urban League is hosting the three-day event, which concludes today. It is a prelude to the organization's national convention Aug. 3 to 5 in Washington.

The theme of the national convention will be "Economic Power: The Next Civil Rights Frontier."

"It's thrilling to see so many young people here participating in the conference and learning about entrepreneurship, learning about business, because that is the way our country runs," National Urban League President Hugh B. Price said as the summit began Thursday.

He spoke in a room where companies set up

displays and summit participants could learn about small business and franchise opportunities.

Myron Robinson, president of the Cleveland Urban League, said the federal government's establishment of enterprise zones in impoverished urban areas is sparking the interest of Urban League chapters to become more concerned about business opportunities for inner city people.

Enterprise zones are areas that receive special tax incentives to lure new businesses.

"We're here to plan for the future," Robinson said. "We realize it's risky business to work for someone else. It's also risky business to work for yourself, but we believe the sky is the limit if you work for yourself."

Price said welfare reform at the federal and state levels threatens to leave growing numbers of people in poverty and in need of jobs. He

called for a "humane approach" to welfare reform while the National Urban League promotes economic development.

"We have a very heavy concentration in the Urban League movement on lifting the academic achievement levels of our children so that they are prepared to be full-blown citizens, prepared to be fully productive citizens and prepared to be entrepreneurs," Price said. "The next thing we have to focus in is to make sure we have an entrepreneurial spirit within our people."

"As you look at the way the economy in the country and the economy around the world is changing, the fact is that so much of the economic energy in our society today is in small business. That is how we, as an African-American people, and all people will get a stake in this economy. It's how we will generate the wealth to be powerful players in our society."

The organization hopes to want African Americans to know and care as much about Africa as many Jewish Americans know and care about Israel.

For more information about the lecture, please call 201-621-8700.

Radio comes to Internet

RESTON, VA.—The Auto Network talk radio show has taken to the Internet to broadcast its show.

The show airs each Saturday at 4 p.m. on WOL 1450AM and WOLB 1010AM in the Washington, D.C. Baltimore, Md. markets. But now, listeners around the world can hear the show any time by visiting the web site www.aacg.com and click on auto show.

The radio show is the featured section of AutoNetwork's new e-zine, African American's Car Buyer's Guide. The site also includes sections covering buying tips, leasing, loan application, 2nd chance credit, auto reviews, auto news, Q&A, a merchant's corner and much more.

The AutoNetwork show focuses on informing African Americans about the buying, selling, leasing, and financing of new and used cars.

Business coalition sponsors forum

NEWARK — On June 18, The American Business Coalition will host "African American for Democracy in Africa—Africa Policy Forum." Guests include: Malik Chaka, of The Center for Democracy in Angola, Harold Sims, former Urban League President and Niki Chukunta, Associate Professor of Humanities at Essex County College.

The organization hopes to want African Americans to know and care as much about Africa as many Jewish Americans know and care about Israel.

For more information about the lecture, please call 201-621-8700.

Women entrepreneurs on the rise

Top cities for women-owned businesses

Rank based on total number of firms, sales and employment in 1996

- New York City
- Los Angeles/Long Beach
- Chicago
- Philadelphia
- Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Women-owned businesses are growing faster than the overall economy in each of the top 50 metropolitan areas in the U.S. announced the National Foundation for Women Business Owners (NFWBO).

The foundation's report, "1996 Facts on Women-Owned Businesses: Trends in the Top 50 Metropolitan Areas," is the first detailed, up-to-date study of women-owned enterprises in the nation.

"Nationally, there are eight million women-owned businesses as of 1996, employing more than 18.5 million people and generating close to \$2.3 trillion in sales," said Susan Peterson, NFWBO chair, who is also president of a Washington, D.C.-based communications training firm.

Overall, the growth rates of women-owned firms are the highest in the "non-traditional" goods-producing sector, which includes construction, manufacturing and the agri-business.

"For the first time, we have completed, current information documenting the growth of women-owned businesses at the metropolitan area level," said Lucie Reid, executive vice president of Wells Fargo Bank, the sponsor of the study. "This study reaffirms that women business owners are a serious economic force," she said.

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Q. When should a child be taken to the dentist for the first time?

A. The best time is around the first birthday. The best time of day usually is in the morning, when a child that age is likely to be rested and ready for a new adventure. But situations differ and parents should ask for appointment times that are most suitable for them and the child. The purpose of the first visit is twofold:

The dentist counts the child's teeth, examining them and the gums as well to see how the temporary teeth are coming in and whether there are any signs of tooth decay or other problems. Although permanent teeth eventually will replace the primary teeth, a child must rely on them for easy chewing, learning to speak clearly and the effect they can have on the successor teeth.

Also as part of the first visit, the dentist advises parents on what to do, and not do, in everyday care of the child's teeth to maintain their health.

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185 Central Ave., East Orange, NJ 07018 (201) 672-7117

BILLBOARD
CALENDAR

NOW THROUGH JUNE 15

NEWARK—African Globe Theater Works presents, "Sisters of Sorrow." For more information, call 201-624-1584.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 25

PATERSON—Exhibit of Fred Douglass' paintings at the LIC Gallery. For more information, call 201-664-6555.

NOW THROUGH JULY 20

SOUTH ORANGE—Opening Reception at "The Gallery of South Orange." For more information, call 201-578-7754.

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

WAYNE—Auditions scheduled for William Peterson College summer jazz ensemble. For more information, call 201-895-2315.

BELMAR—Sun Jazz returns at JASON'S, a jazz and blues night club. For more information call 908-681-1416.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

NEW YORK—"Henry VIII." The 36th and final production of the Shakespeare marathon, which is the 42nd season of Shakespeare in central park. For ticket information call 212-539-9750.

NEW YORK—"Rockwell Kent by Night." Kent's first solo exhibition will begin at Whitney Museum of American Art. For more information call 212-570-3633.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

NEWARK—The Newark Museum Garden Jazz Concerts presents "The Spirit of Life Ensemble." For more information, call 201-996-6650.

NEW YORK—Aaron Davis Hall presents African American performance art festivals on tour, four evenings of unique theatrical experiences. For more information call 212-307-7171.

MONTCLAIR—"The Sound of Music" will begin a three-week run at Montclair State University. For more information, call 201-655-5112.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

UNION—The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced that Family Discount Cards for the Union County Pools in Rahway and Wheeler Parks are now available for purchase. For more information, call 908-527-4900.

NEW YORK—Film Forum 2 presents two weeks of Dorothy Dandridge. For Box Office information call 212-727-6110.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

NEWARK—Jerome Hines presents a tribute to Robert McFerrin, hosted by James Earl Jones at Newark Symphony Hall. For ticket information, call 201-643-8009.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

NEW YORK—The director of the Whitney Museum of American Art invites you to press preview for, "Frank Lloyd Wright, designs for an American Landscape: 1922-1932." For more information, call 212-570-9235.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

NEWARK—New Jersey Symphony Orchestra with TAKE 5 and special guest, pianist, Stewart Goodyear. For more information, call 201-642-3713.

JERSEY CITY—The Jersey City Museum presents Exhibition Gallery Talks. For more information, call 201-547-4514.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

NEW YORK—Exhibit, "Katharine Hepburn Retrospective." Features the work of the late artist from his student days to his death in 1990 from AIDS. At the Whitney Museum of American Art, 945 Madison Ave. For more information, call 212-570-3633.

Do you have an event coming up?

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Father's Day Author's Event at Crossroads Theatre

NEW BRUNSWICK—RaMin Books and Crossroads Theatre Company of New Brunswick, NJ will present four well-known author couples in readings and book signings on Father's Day, June 15 at 3 p.m. at the theatre located at 7 Livingston Avenue. The authors taking part in the program called, "In Praise of Our Fathers" are Susan L. Taylor and her husband Khepha Burns, Herb Boyd and Eliza Dinwiddie-Boyd, Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson, Rhinhold Ponder and Michele Tuck-Ponder the event will be followed by a reception and book-signings.

Susan L. Taylor, the author of "In the Spirit" and "Lessons in Living" has been Editor-in-Chief of Essence Magazine since 1981.

She will appear with her husband Khepha Burns, a writer of several award-winning television series. They will read from their new book "Confirmation: The Spiritual Wisdom That Has Shaped Our Lives."

Herb Boyd is a journalist who writes regularly for the New York Amsterdam News and whose articles have appeared in Essence, Class, Down Beat, The Black Scholar and many others. He is the author of "Down the Glory Road" and "African History for Beginners." He will read from "Brotherman: The Odyssey of Black Men in America—An Anthology."

His wife, Eliza Dinwiddie-Boyd will read from her new



Essence Editor, Susan L. Taylor, will celebrate fatherhood at Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick

book, "In Our Own Words: A Treasury of Quotations from the African-American Community." Ms. Dinwiddie-Boyd is also the author of "Flood Heritage 11001 Names for your African American Baby" Rhinhold Ponder and Michele Tuck-Ponder have edited a new book called "The Wisdom of the Word Love: Great African-American Sermons," and will read from it. Mr. Ponder is a literary agent whose writings have appeared in the New York Times and the Trenton Times. Ms. Tuck-Ponder is president of Ponder Literary Properties and Mayor of Princeton Township.

Wade and Cheryl Hudson will read from their new book "In Praise of Our Fathers and Mothers." Wade is also the author of several children's books including "Five Brave Explorers," "Jama's Busy Day" and "Pass It On: African-American Poetry for Children." Cheryl Willis-Hudson is a graphic designer and author whose books include "Afrobe ABC Book," "Good Morning Baby" "Good Night Baby" and co-author of "Bright Eyes, Brown Skin."

The presentation is approximately two hours and will conclude with a booksigning and reception for the authors and audience in the Crossroads lobby. Tickets for the event are \$10 and can be purchased through the Crossroads Theatre Box Office (908)249-5560.

Bad Boy Entertainment pays tribute to notorious B.I.G



Pictured left to right: Jadakiss, Sheek, Styles (of The L.O.X.), Guinness Parker, Michael Keith (of 112) Faith Evans, Sean "Puffy" Combs, Daron Jones, Marvin Scandrick (of 112), Hype Williams (Video Director)

Over 200 radio stations across the country recently participated in a 30 second moment of silence in honor of the late Notorious B.I.G., followed by the world premiere of two new tribute tracks "I'll Be Missing You" and "We'll Always Love Big Poppa." At the same time, MTV aired the tribute video to "I'll Be Missing You."

"I wanted to tell B.I.G. how I was feeling," explains Bad Boy's CEO, Sean "Puffy" Combs on why he decided to honor Biggie in this way. "I wanted to have one last conversation with him. The concept of the tribute single was to express my personal feelings and the feelings from the Bad Boy family."

Faith Evans said, "Hopefully, we can get across a message because when something like this happens, we always say, 'when is it going to stop.'"

"I'll Be Missing You" features vocals by Combs with Evans and 112; it was written by Faith Evans and Todd Galtier and produced by Combs and Stevie J. The song was inspired by the Police hit, "Every Breath You Take" and the chorus of the song is reflective of Puffy's and Faith's personal feelings of B.I.G. The lyrics read "Every step I take/Every move I make/Every single day/Every time I pray/I'll be missing you/thinking of the day/when you went away/what a

life to take/what a bond to break/I'll be missing you."

The video was directed by Hype Williams and Sean "Puffy" Combs. "It means a lot that I am doing this video," says Williams. "I think B.I.G. represented a change in hip hop. B.I.G. helped to change the way that youth express themselves."

The flipside, "We'll Always Love Big Poppa" is written and produced by Bad Boy Entertainment's newest group The L.O.X. The track is produced by Damon Blackmon and was first performed at B.I.G.'s funeral.

"It was his personal artistic expression of how the group felt about Biggie and how he affected the lives of so many people," said Combs. "If you knew him, you would love him," said Jay from The L.O.X. "It is sad we had to do this song as our first video."

The video was directed by Sean "Puffy" Combs and shot in Harlem. The video features Lauryn Hill (of the Fugees), Craig Mack, Mario Winans, Todd (Kelsha, Kim, and Pam), Naughty By Nature, Jermaine Dupree, Missy, Pepsa and Spinderella (Salt 'n' Pepa), Faith, Jay Z, Case, Cool Herz, Fat Joe, 112, DJ Kid Capri, Hot 97's radio personality Angie Martinez and DJ Funkmaster Flex, among others.

Bad Boy Records, Arista Records and BMG Distribution

have agreed to donate all profits from sales of the tribute single to a trust for the benefit of Christopher Wallace's two children, T'Yanna and Christopher.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEF

MUSIC



Assorted Philavors, Epic/Hill of Fame's soulful R&B divas are celebrating the recent casting of group member Julia Garrison in Miramax Productions forthcoming feature film 1-85, starring New York Undercover star Malik Yoba. "Assorted Philavors is still my current priority," advises Julia who with her bandmates LaTisha Johnson, Tiffany Philmore, and Antonio Bryant, recently performed on BET's popular urban youth issues program "Teen Summit."

EX-MANAGER SUES FOR ALLEGED UNPAID COMMISSIONS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg was sued by the estranged wife of imprisoned Death Row Records founder Marion "Suge" Knight for allegedly failing to pay her millions of dollars.

Sharitta Knight, the rapper's former manager, claims that she is owed 20 percent of his gross earnings under terms of an Aug. 3, 1993 contract. Snoop Doggy Dogg, whose

real name is Calvin Broadus, earned more than \$8 million during the management period but is now "spending large sums of money on frivolous items," according to the lawsuit filed Friday in Los Angeles County Superior Court. Sharitta Knight's suit asks that money paid to Broadus by Death Row Records, distributor Interscope Records and others be placed in a trust fund until the lawsuit is litigated.

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Camden	41,040	Morris	50,240
Essex	50,240	Ocean	45,280
Gloucester	41,040	Passaic	52,240
Hudson	35,760	Somerset	56,000
Mercer	48,880	Union	50,240
		Warren	50,240

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Kirk Franklin releases 'God's Property' album

The fine art of contemporary Gospel music in all its inspirational, cutting edge glory is personified on the new God's Property from Kirk Franklin's No Nation album (B-Side Records). The project was produced by Franklin, Buster and Shavon, and Kevin Bond, and features a prime guest rhyme from Salt 'n' Pepa.

RELIGION CALENDAR

EVERY TUESDAY
HACKENSACK—Prayer service, 7:30 p.m. Donation \$5.00. For more information call (201)346-6118

EVERY FRIDAY
HACKENSACK—Choralistic Christian Singers is having an after work house gospel jam 7 p.m. For more information call (201) 346-6118.

EVERY SATURDAY
HACKENSACK—House Mix & Mingle, 6 p.m. For more information call (201) 346-6118.

EVERY SUNDAY
HACKENSACK—After Church House Get Together 4 p.m. - Donation \$5.00. For more information call (201) 346-6118.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11
PERTH AMBOY—"Nature's Inner City Summer Program" Register now for 6 week summer program which runs from July 7 to August 13. For more information call 908-826-5233.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13
OCEAN GROVE—The Praise Team from St. John's United Methodist Church of Haver, NJ will present a gospel concert. For more information call 908-775-0035.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
OCEAN GROVE—The "Purple Dragon" music group will present a gospel concert at the Ocean Grove Boardwalk Pavilion. For more information call 908-775-0035.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
PERTH AMBOY—Deaf Ministry Christian Interpreters Network - a workshop designed for those interested in working with the hearing impaired community. For more information call 908-826-5233.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
OCEAN GROVE—The Long Hill Chapel Music Ministry of Chatham, NJ will present a gospel concert at the Ocean Grove Boardwalk Pavilion. For more information call 908-775-0035.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
PERTH AMBOY—A Father's Day Recognition Service. For more information call 908-826-5233.

Send your religious events to City News Religious Calendar
PO Box 1774
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

Taking responsibility for self

By Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad, M.D.

Oct. 16, 1995 is a day that will forever live in the history of Black America and come to think of it, White America too. Not only was the Million Man March which took place in Washington, DC the biggest Black event that has ever occurred in the history of this country, it was the biggest event period. More than 2.2 million Black men responded to the call of the Honorable Louis Farrakhan to march with him, not making a demand on the government, but making a demand on self to do better and be more responsible in our duties as fathers, brothers, sons and husbands.

The theme of the day, as

everyone remembers was "Atonement, Reconciliation and Responsibility." It was a rare moment in history when it seemed as though time stood still and history itself took a deep breath, taking an introspective look back to see what mistakes had been made (atonement) and then looking towards the future and taking responsibility for what must be done. One of the key themes that was struck by speaker after speaker, especially the Honorable Louis Farrakhan, was the taking of responsibility of Black men for themselves, their family, their community and their nation.

Reflecting on this theme, it can be noted that you really cannot take

responsibility for what you don't claim. This is a very important point to consider for a people who once were held as slaves. When we were slaves, someone else claimed ownership over us and hence had the responsibility for us.

By the same logic, if we today claim ownership of ourselves, then we must take responsibility for ourselves. Are you with me so far? So, the Million Man March was a day of rising consciousness where we consciously claimed ownership and responsibility for ourselves, our families and our communities.

Well, who or what is this self that we claim ownership of and responsibility for? Each self is composed

of body, mind, emotions and spirit. We all are a part of families, that claim collectively constitute community and nation. It is this totality, from the individual to the nation, that we claim ownership of and responsibility for.

So, what does all of this high sounding philosophizing have to do with health? Well, it follows that if I claim ownership of my own body for example, then I have to claim responsibility for the maintenance of my body and likewise my mind. I have to take responsibility for it, which means that I have to take responsibility for its proper functioning and continued health, because I need my mind to help me solve all of my

problems and secure happiness for myself. Similarly, my emotions are mine. I am responsible for them and for my spirit. So wholistic health takes on added meaning and deeper dimensions. So, take another look of the pictures of the Million Man March with 2.2 million Black men assembled on the Washington Mall. If we really claim ownership and responsibility for all of those who were on the Mall and all of those who were represented by those who were on the mall, then we are talking about taking ownership and responsibility for the entire Black nation and, it is about time that we start constructing a system of healthcare that allows us to do just that.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE BLACK CULTURE

LINCROFT—This year's "African-American Family Festival" will be held on Saturday, June 14, from 12-6 pm at Brookdale Community College, in the area between the College Commons and Gym.

Activities and events include: the Hameed African Drum and Dance Company, Talent Show, the Children's Dance Company, African Globe Theatreworks featuring professional African drummer and dancer from Ghana, singer Kwan Wiley, Health Expo, African Outdoor Marketplace, Food Court, continuous films, and the Gospel Hour between 5 to 6 p.m.

Activities for children include the Giant Slide, Swim Safety, and Face painting, plus workshops in Sand Art, African bookmaking, and Jewelry making.

A play, "It Takes a Village," will be offered at 3:45 pm in the Performing Arts Center.

Admission is free, and the Festival will be held rain or shine.

For more information, call Brookdale's Community Development office at (908) 224-2880.

Revelation Mortgage names new leadership

Andre' Brooks, a 13-year veteran of the residential mortgage industry has been named president of Revelation Mortgage Company of America, a joint venture of Revelation Corporation and Norwest Mortgage, Inc. Revelation Corporation, a historic partnership of five of the nation's largest African American church denominations, and Norwest Mortgage, the nation's leading provider of residential mortgages, formed the for-profit joint venture in an effort to spur

home ownership among the nation's minority population.

"Revelation Mortgage will be ideally positioned to serve the housing needs of the nation's African-American population," said Dan Russell, Norwest Mortgage executive vice president, affordable housing.

"Andre's leadership and business experience in providing home financing services in a variety of market segments nationwide will clearly help us produce outstanding

results from our newest and largest joint venture."

Based in Des Moines, Iowa, Norwest Mortgage, Inc. is a subsidiary of Norwest Corporation. It is the nation's leading originator and servicer of residential mortgages.

With more than 750 stores in 50 states, Norwest Mortgage operates the largest mortgage lending network in the country and provides funding for approximately one of every 15 homes financed in the United States.

Clergy extends blessing to grads

NEWARK—Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry (MEM) sponsored the 11th Annual Baccalaureate Service, Sunday, June 8 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

MEM sponsored this event each year to honor and extend the blessings and hopes of the religious community to graduating students from Newark Public Schools.

The Baccalaureate Service is part of building effective School and Church Partnerships to improve urban public schools.

MECA is an inter-faith coalition of congregations and individuals representing over 40,000 people in Newark and surrounding communities.

The organization seeks to reduce violence, crime and addiction by promoting education and economic development in urban areas.

The guest speaker was Rev. Dr. David B. Jefferson, Pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church.

Meeting to provide adoption information

SUMMIT — Becoming a parent through adoption will be the subject of an information meeting held by Spence-Chapin Services on Monday, June 23, 1997 at 6:30 pm in its Summit, New Jersey office. This is an opportunity for African-American couples and single adults who are thinking about adopting a baby to learn about all aspects of the process. A presentation by an adoption specialist and adoptive family will be followed by a question and answer period.

Spence-Chapin is a private, nonprofit agency which emphasizes a personalized approach to adoption. It has offices in Summit, Manhattan and on Long Island. The agency pioneered its minority adoption program in the 1940's. Currently it has the most extensive African-American Infant Adoption service in the Northeast. There are no foster care requirements or lengthy waits before permanent placement. Both healthy and infants with special needs are available. After adoption, families may participate in workshops and community-based parent groups.

Admission to the information meeting is free. However, there is limited seating and reservation is requested. For more information, please call 201-275-1212. The Summit office located at 57 Union Place.

Church to join families with music and workshops



Bishop Donald Hilliard

PERTH AMBOY — A Holy Convocation, titled "Maturing the Family in God" will be held June 23-29, 1997 at the Cathedral-Second Baptist Church in Perth Amboy. The Holy convocation, sponsored by Bishop Donald and Minister Phyllis Hilliard will feature the Holy Convocation Mass Choir, special musical guests Reverend George Seagriff & Royal Priesthood and soloists Annette Coward, Nathan Martin, Minister Marcia Sapp-Salter and Nadene McLeod.

Guest speakers will be on hand for each day of the convocation, with special workshops focusing on spiritual maturity, maturity and marriage and communication.

For further information, call (908) 826-5293.

WATERS HOSTS ALUMNI REUNION

FLORIDA — As part of several new focus initiatives by College President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Edward Waters College (EWC), a member institution of The College Fund/UNCF will reconnect with alumni by celebrating in Jacksonville, Florida, a much anticipated "Alumni Revival Weekend" on June 13-15.

Activities will take place both on and off-campus for alumni, their children and spouses, and special guests. EWC encourages the entire family to celebrate and fellowship, recognize its illustrious history for this much talked about contemporary reunion. All EWC Trainers are asked to contact the office of Institutional Advancement at (904) 366-2729.

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A pre-bid meeting will be held at the Administrative Office of the Housing Authority, Garfield Court, Long Branch, NJ on Tuesday, June 10, 1997 at 2:00 PM. Following the meeting, any bidder wishing to inspect the Boiler Room shall be allowed access. Attendance at the meeting is not a mandatory requirement, but is recommended. The information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Specifications, Forms of Bid Bond, Performance Payment Bond and other Contract Documents are available for purchase at the Administrative Offices of the Housing Authority, Garfield Court, Rockwell Avenue, Long Branch, NJ for a non-refundable fee of \$25.00. The Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bidding or to reject any or all bids if deemed in the best interest of the Authority. DAVID A. BROWN, PHM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY 29, 1997	ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS PROJECT NO. NJ-8-3, SEAVIEW MANOR PROJECT NO. NJ-8-6, HOBART MANOR PROJECT NO. NJ-8-7, CHESTER ARTHUR APARTMENTS THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH (OWNER) GARFIELD COURT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING P.O. BOX 337 LONG BRANCH, NJ 07740 Sealed bids for Asphalt Paving Work at Seaview Manor, Hobart Manor and Chester Arthur Apartments for the Long Branch Housing Authority of the City of Long Branch, New Jersey. The Housing Authority of the City of Long Branch shall receive sealed bids on or before Wednesday, June 18, 1997 at the Garfield Court Administrative Offices of the Housing Authority until 11:00 AM, at 11:00 AM, the bids shall be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids must be submitted prior to the designated time for acceptance and opening of bids, and may be submitted either by mail or in person, by the Bidder or the Agent. No bids shall be accepted after the designated time. Bids shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Bidder and clearly marked "ASPHALT PAVING WORK AT SEAVIEW MANOR, HOBART MANOR AND CHESTER ARTHUR APARTMENTS". A pre-bid meeting will be held at the Administrative Office of the Housing Authority, Garfield Court, Long Branch, NJ on Wednesday, June 11, 1997 at 2:00 PM, followed by a walk-thru of the project site. Attendance at this meeting is not a mandatory requirement, but is recommended. The information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Specifications, Forms of Bid Bond, Performance Payment Bond and other Contract Documents are available for purchase at the Administrative Offices of the Housing Authority, Garfield Court, Rockwell Avenue, Long Branch, NJ for a non-refundable fee of \$25.00. The Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bidding or to reject any or all bids if deemed in the best interest of the Authority. DAVID A. 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Widow clings to life

continued from page 1

Qubilah was indicted for allegedly plotting to hire a hit man to kill Farrakhan. The charges were dropped last month after she agreed to undergo treatment for chemical dependency.

"She is extremely distraught," said Chuck Andrews, president of Inner City Broadcasting Co. of San Antonio, which owns KSJL, the radio station where Qubilah worked. "We've been trying to provide what support we could offer.... It's just apparent that this family has had so much tragedy."

Malcolm Shabazz lived with his mother in San Antonio for five months earlier this year, but she had recently sent him to his grandmother's house in Yonkers. According to police reports, officers were called several times to the Qubilah's San Antonio home, of the latest two incidents involving confrontations between Malcolm and his mother. Arrangements were made with Child Protective Services to move Malcolm out of the home, but he later was returned, police reports said.

The eighth-grader, who had attended a Lutheran school in New York, was enrolled at Redeemer Lutheran School in San Antonio from January until March, said principal Patricia Harrison.

He played on the basketball team and made friends fairly easily, said Harrison. However, he said that the approximately 200 pupils at the school did not know he was related to the slain black leader.

Citing difficulties with his studies, Malcolm transferred to the public Nimitz Middle School in April, Harrison said. He was enrolled there only 13 days, records show.

Rice wins in Newark



Ron Rice

NEWARK—Twenty-eight District Senator, and Mayor contender Ron Rice retained his seat Tuesday, defeating retired police officer Laurence Brown Sr. in a bitter race in which the challenger was backed by Mayor Sharpe James and North Ward power broker Steven Aduabo Sr.

Rice narrowly bested his opponent with 54.2% of the vote to Brown's 45.8%. A popular senator, Rice's seat was contested after he announced his run for Mayor against James next year. Polls show Rice winning that match up by a wide margin. Also running for Mayor next year is city Councilman Donald Tucker who won a Assembly seat in the 29th District on Tuesday.

Rice also serves as a city Councilman and the West Ward that he represents was a particular target for Aduabo and James who wanted to scare him away from the mayor's race. In fact, the race seemed to be more of a power play where the mayorship was concerned. Rice was supported by Essex County Democratic Party Chairman Tom Giblin. Because the district is overwhelmingly Democratic, it is almost certain that Rice will win his seat in November against the Republican opponent.

1,700 Blue cross workers end strike

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Negotiators for nearly 1,700 striking claims processors and other clerical workers at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey reached a tentative agreement with company management Wednesday, May 28 representatives for both sides said.

But they disagreed on whether the agreement, which was scheduled to be presented to union members on Friday, represented any substantial change from what had been offered previously.

"It's based essentially on the offer that was on the table on Monday before the union walked out," said company spokesman Fred Hillman.



1,700 Blue Cross workers go back to work after long strike

Lois Cuccinello, assistant business manager for the striking workers, would not give any details but said the plan was significantly different.

The strike by members of Local 32 of the Office & Professional Employees International Union began Tuesday, that same week a day after mediated talks between the two sides collapsed.

The union's contract expired April 30. Members had rejected a tentative three-year contract in a mail ballot, apparently by a margin of just 30 votes.

The sticking point has been the company's plan to

pool vacation and sick days. Blue Cross did yield to workers' objections and withdrew a proposal to impose health insurance premiums on retirees with at least 25 years of service.

Hillman said management employees working six-day, 60-hour work weeks were handling claims processing and customer-service tasks, making the strike "invisible" to the company's 1.9 million subscribers.

More than 2,700 of Blue Cross' 3,700 employees work in Newark where the company is headquartered. Blue Cross also has offices in Neptune, Howell, Dover and Mount Laurel.

Another New Brunswick resident tells a story of police brutality

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

NEW BRUNSWICK — In a town that has seen more than its share of tension between the community and the police as of late, another resident says that he also has recently been a victim of harassment and brutality at the hands of local law enforcement.

Manases Leroy Buchanan, an employee of the city's parks department, a state Karate champion, and a former Guardian Angel with no prior criminal record, is also the grandson of an officer in the local NAACP, and the son of a county corrections officer.

In January, Buchanan, 26, says police harassed, threatened, and roughed him up before charging him with disorderly conduct during a fight outside a local club that he was not involved in.

According to Buchanan, the incident began near closing time at the Bowl-O-Drome on Jersey Ave. While he was inside he saw a some persons began fighting. The altercation moved outside as Buchanan asked a friend for a ride home.

He went to retrieve his jacket from the car of another friend who he came with. As he tried to return that friend's keys the crowd surrounding the altercation had grown larger. "At that same time, the crowd shifted...like they were scrambling," he recalled. "I went to turn around, and that's when I was hit with the nightstick."

According to Buchanan, the nightclub blow came from an officer who struck him and another person allegedly because both were told to move, but didn't.

Buchanan, who says he did not

hear the command, fell to the ground as officers prevented a friend from helping him.

From there an argument ensued between Buchanan and the officers, Buchanan protesting being hit.

"The crowd of people that was there was surprised, they were shocked," Buchanan said, regarding the officers arresting him. "They were saying, 'What are you doing? You got the wrong person!'" Buchanan said the two individuals the police were initially responding to were never arrested.

Once inside the police cruiser and until they reached police headquarters, Buchanan said he was harassed again and roughly handled by the officers.

Buchanan suffered a sprained wrist that evening. He was charged with disorderly conduct and is currently awaiting a court date.

This incident, is the latest of a series of complaints that escalated last fall after the shooting death of Carolyn "Sissy" Adams by Officer James Cansalvo, who although cleared of criminal charges, resigned just before facing departmental charges.

On June 16, the trial begins for three men who face charges of assault, resisting arrest, and inciting a riot after a brawl at the old U.S. 1 Flea Market witnesses say was incited by Officer Kenneth Milroy, a police officer with a long history of complaints concerning abusive behavior, and his son Nicolas, both working as security guards there.

Community Affairs Chair for New Brunswick NAACP Bertha Buchanan has filed grievances on behalf of her grandson with city

officials.

Buchanan, who looks forward to facing his charges in court, stresses that the strained relationships between community and police should not reflect poorly on the good officers that are doing their job.

"It's not the police department because you can't blame all the shields for one shield's mistake," he points out. "I know some intelligent, strong, and good cops, and I respect them."

Commission for minority males

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grams that currently exist to help them," Smith said.

In addition, the commission will develop and implement new programs and demonstration projects, as well as institute community education and public awareness programs. The commission will also assist African-American and Latino males to develop strategies to improve their social conditions and will provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.

The commission's membership would include: two members of the Assembly and two of the Senate to be appointed by the Speaker and the Senate President. The members from the two houses would not be of the same political party. One member would be from the New Jersey Office of Minority Health Advisory Commission appointed by the Governor. The 14 public members would also be appointed by the Governor. Of those 14, at least one member would be a representative of groups like Aspira, Inc., FOCUS, the Black Issues Convention, the Negro Council of Women, the Puerto Rican Congress, the Urban League, a Latino clergy and others.

Smith's measure was approved by a vote of 69-2 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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